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Staff Reporter

Marylanders cast a bigger vote for Governor in Tuesday's election than they did in 1950 but the total fell far short of that tallied in the Eisenhower-Stevenson contest in 1952.

Final unofficial returns showed a total of 697,319 ballots cast for Gov. Theodore McKeldin and his Democratic opponent, Dr. H. C. Byrd. McKeldin won 379,634 votes to 317,685 for Byrd. His victory margin was 61,949 compared to 93,983 over W. Preston Lane, Jr., in 1950. The state sales tax had aroused bitter resentment against Lane.

The total cast in 1950 was 645,631. The total cast in the 1952 Eisenhower-Stevenson race was 894,761. Eisenhower drew 499,424 votes to 395,337 for Stevenson.

In 1946, when Lane defeated McKeldin by 46,332, the total vote cast was 489,836. In 1942, when Herbert R. O'Connor defeated McKeldin by 19,284, the total vote was 377,692.

The official registration figures for Tuesday's election showed 1,068,839 Maryland voters with 318,360 Republicans, 755,479 Democrats and 24,248 others.

Unofficial returns yesterday also disclosed that not a single Democrat incumbent seeking reelection to the General Assembly was defeated. Final returns showed the Republican minority in the 29-member state senate had been reduced from 11 to 7 seats. In the House of Delegates, Democrats gained 11 seats, raising their majority to 99 compared to 24 Republicans. Recounts in close contests might upset this balance, however.

Three sons of top-ranking Maryland Democrats won seats in the House of Delegates for the first time. Blair Lee III, son of E. Brooke Lee, Democratic leader in Montgomery County and a former speaker of the House, was elected. So were Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr., of Prince Georges, son of the former Congressman and former president of the State Senate, and Joseph D. Tydings, of Harford, son of former United States Senator Millard E. Tydings. The elder Tydings also served as speaker in the House.

Baltimore's Fourth Legislative District also set a precedent by electing the first Negro member of the General Assembly. Truly Hatchett, a Democrat, was elected a member of the district's delegation to the House of Delegates. Nearly 20 years ago Hatchett had been considered for appointment as recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia, but another was named.

In the meantime, Democrat C. Ferdinand Sybert who defeated McKeldin's running mate, Edward D. E. Rollins, in the race for Attorney General, pledged cooperation with the Republican state administration. The Howard County lawyer also expressed belief that the Democratic Party, driven by a bitter primary and the defeat of its top standard-bearer, still will pull itself together.

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International News

'Symbolic' Slaying

Lois Carter, 20, of Compton, Calif., has admitted, police say, that she beat her 3-year-old daughter to death and explained that she regarded the act as "symbolic revenge," against her own mother. "It seemed every time I hit the baby I was striking Mama a whack," she was quoted as saying.